

Should the provincial Liberals and NDP form an alliance? yes It's likely the best way to stop Ford

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Byline: Tim Ellis Opinion Tim Ellis Is A Rave Dj And Community Organizer Based In South Etobicoke. Tim, An Immigrant From The U.s., Got His Start In Organizing With The Bernie Sanders Campaign In 2016.

Body

On April 12, Not One Seat announced our campaign to equip voters in Toronto's 25 ridings to unite behind the candidates best positioned to defeat Premier Doug Ford.

Our aim is to deny the Progressive Conservatives the 11 seats they won in Toronto in 2018, which should be sufficient to keep Ford from winning a majority of Ontario's seats - and thus open a path for the Liberals, NDP, and Greens to work together and ensure Ontario gets a new government.

Within days of launch, our volunteer base had surged from one person at a laptop to hundreds of people working together to prevent a second Ford term.

That incredible and immediate response makes clear that we've tapped into something Ontarians desire.

This election is, first and foremost, a referendum on Doug Ford. And after four years of the Ford government's incompetence, chaos, and ill-informed decisions, polls consistently show more than two-thirds of the voting public is ready to cast a resounding vote for "no more."

But thanks to the idiosyncrasies of our electoral system and the current political landscape, Ford could well return to Queen's Park in June, even if many of his candidates secure barely a third of the vote.

This is because in many ridings, Liberal and New Democrat candidates are splitting the "no more Ford" vote right down the middle.

There are real policy differences between the parties - anyone who is primarily motivated by those policy differences should vote for the party that reflects their views.

But for those voters who feel, as we do, that the time is too short, the urgency too great, and Ford's failures too severe to risk another term, we are organizing to unite your votes to defeat Ford's PCs - and we are asking those Liberal, Green, and New Democrat candidates who get elected to commit to working together to ensure a new government in June.

Working together may sound anathema to partisans. But the hard truth is that on issue after issue, the NDP, Greens and Liberals agree on the diagnosis and only differ on the prescription.

That's a healthy democracy - built on shared values, shared facts, and shared priorities, with room for a lively debate on the best approaches to resolving our challenges.

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By contrast, on issue after issue, the PCs under Ford are out of step with voters and out of touch with reality.

The truth is, we can't make any progress on our shared priorities while Ford is premier. And we can't afford to waste four more years moving backward on climate action, burning out health-care workers and letting the cost of housing get even further out of reach for young people.

However, if we can hold Ford to just 62 seats or fewer, then we'll have cleared a path for Andrea Horwath and Steven Del Duca to take a page from their federal cousins' popular playbook and work together in a minority government. And with Ford relegated to the sidelines, Ontario will be able to get back to work on our shared priorities.

Not One Seat is built on the idea that there is more that unites us than divides us, but you don't have to take our word for it.

New Democrat, Green, and Liberal policy announcements differ in detail, but constantly touch on the same themes, priorities, and issues - a clear indication that the parties are targeting a similar pool of voters (that is to say, the more than two-thirds of Ontario voters who share those values and priorities).

A collaborative government would be able to deliver on the priorities of that vast majority and, as a result, would be a much more representative outcome than handing the reins back over to the outlier PCs.

And with all three parties offering electoral reform in their platforms, this could even be the last election where something like Not One Seat is necessary - and a collaborative government would help ensure that parties are held accountable for keeping their promises.

Political parties exist to deliver for voters and it's clear that this election, what voters want is to put an end to Ford's reign of errors.

We're doing the hard work to ensure the New Democrats, Liberals, and Greens get that chance.

It's up to them to work together and take it.

Tim Ellis is a rave DJ and community organizer based in South Etobicoke. Tim, an immigrant from the U.S., got his start in organizing with the Bernie Sanders campaign in 2016.

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